

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-14 OMB-01

TRSE-00 NEA-10 DRC-01 /148 W
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R 011504Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8611

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0950

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, CU

SUBJECT: RAUL CASTRO VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: MOSCOW 2525

1. RAUL CASTRO AND ENTOURAGE WOUND UP EIGHT-DAY VISIT TO YUGO-SLAVIA FEBRUARY 28 WITHOUT SEEING TITO, WHO HAS BEEN SECLUDED FROM PUBLIC VIEW SINCE FEBRUARY 15. CASTRO ARRIVAL ANNOUNCEMENT FEBRUARY 20 SAID VISIT WOULD END FEBRUARY 25, LEADING TO SPECULATION HERE HE EXTENDED STAY IN HOPE OF SEEING TITO.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THIS VISIT HIGHEST LEVEL CUBAN DELEGATION TO COME TO YUGOSLAVIA SINCE BROTHER FIDEL ROSE TO POWER IN 1959. RAUL INVITED BY LCY PRESIDUM AS RETURN FOR PARTY EXECUTIVE BUREAU SECY DOLANC TRIP TO CUBA IN JUNE 1973. MEMBERS CASTRO'S ENTOURAGE INCLUDED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FLAVIO BRAVO PRADO; CPCU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS VILMA ESPIN, MAJOR JOSE ABRAHANTES FERNANDEZ, BRIGADIER-MAJOR PEDRO GARCIA PELAEX, AND CARLOS ALDANA ESCALANTE. TOP YUGOSLAV INTERLOCUTORS WERE DOLANC, VICE PRESIDENT OF STATE

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PRESIDENCY MITJA RIBICIC, AND MINDEF NIKOLA LJUBLICIC.

3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE RELEASED FEBRUARY 28 NOTES STAISFACTION BOTH SIDES BILATERAL RELATIONS "DEVELOPING SUCCESSFULLY ON BASIS OF PRINCIPLES OF MARXISM-LENINISM IS SPIRIT FRIENDSHIP, MUTUAL CONFIDENCE, AND "RESPECT FOR CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS OF RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES". YUGOSLAV SIDE "EXPRESSED AS CATEGORICAL DEMAND THAT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL BLOCKADE OF CUBA BE LIFTED AND OTHER HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST SOCIALIST CUBA BE STOPPED". FULL SUPPORT ALSO GIVEN CUBA IN OBTAINING "UNCONDITONAL WITHDRAWAL OF US MILITARY FORCES, PRINCIPALLY NAVAL FORCES FROM GUANTANAMO BASE".

4. ON MIDDLE EAST, COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT FOR ARABS' "STRUGGLE AGAINST INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM AND ISRAELI AGRESSION". CRISIS CAN ONLY BE SOLVED ON BASIS IMMEDIATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND REALIZATION FULL LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS PALESTINIANS, "INCLUDING RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION". ON CHILE, COMMUNIQUE STATES "TWO SIDES EMPHASIZED THAT COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY COUP REPRESENTS AN INTEGRAL PART OF AGRESSIVE PLANS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM AND REACTION".

5. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLE OF LA PEOPLES FOR "FULL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL INDEPENDENCE, FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS AND FOR CHANGE OF OBSOLETE SOCIAL RELATIONS ON THE CONTINENT". BOTH ARE "DEEPLY CONFIDENT THAT NO PRESSURES, INTERFERENCE AND PLOTS OF IMPERIALIST FORCES AND DOMESTIC REACTION CAN STOP" PROGRESS OF LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLE. REST OF COMMUNIQUE STRESSES NEED FOR EQUITABLE CONOMIC RELATIONS IN WORLD, SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES, CONTROL OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND MULTINATIONALS, AND IMPORTANCE NONALIGNED UNITY AND INITIATIVES.

6. COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTED NEED FOR "GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES, ON BASIS OF BASIC PRINCIPLES OF MARXISM AND LENINISM, WHICH EACH PARTY CREATIVELY APPLIES UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF ITS RESPECTIVE COUNTRY". CONCLUSION NOTES TITO ACCEPTS FIDEL CASTRO INVITATION TO VISIT CUBA AND LATTER ACCEPTS RENEWED DOLANC INVITATION TO VISIT TITO. DATES TO BE SET LATER.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE ANTI-US OVERTONES IN SOME PARTS OF COMMUNIQUE, YUGOSLAV INFLUENCE TO MODERATE LANGUAGE SEEMS EVIDENT. IN INTERVIEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OVER BELGRADE TV CASTRO BLAMED ALL THE ILLS OF LATIN AMERICA ON "AMERICAN IMPERIALSIM"; SUCH EXTREME ATTACK NOT IN COMMUNIQUE. IN SAME INTERVIEW CASTRO SAID CUBAN FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF "MARXIST-LENINIST BROTHERHOOD, UNITY AND SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM". THIS TRIBUTE TO MOSCOW NOT ONLY MISSING FROM COMMUNIQUE, BUT ALSO CLEARLY REJECTED BY YUGOSLAVS IN REFERENCES TO "CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS OF RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES". CASTRO SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF VISIT BEING SHOWN

AROUND YUGOSLAV FACTORIES AND ENTERPRISES IN SERBIA, SLOVENIA,
CROATIA, AND MACEDONIA. HE ALSO WAS GUEST AT NEW CONSTITUTION
PROCLAMATION CEREMONY FEB 21 WHICH INAGUURATED FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
OF UNIQUE YUGOSLAV "SELF-MANAGING" SOCIALISM. IT SEEMS LIKELY
THAT IN WARMING UP RELATIONS WITH CUBA, YUGOSLAVS ARE TAKING
EVERY OPPORTUNITY SHOW CUBANS VIRTUES OF THEIR OWN BRAND
OF INDEPENDENT, NONALIGNED SOCIALISM.
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